

Nation

Volume 15, No. 2 • December 7, 2007

**Happy
Holidays
to one and all!**

\$2 Free in *Iyiyuschi*
Serving *Iyiyuschi* since 1993
Canada Post Publication No. 40015005



Δꝝꝝꝝ ꝝꝝꝝꝝ ꝝꝝꝝꝝ
Cree Regional Authority
Administration régionale Crie
Δꝝꝝꝝ ꝝꝝꝝꝝ ꝝꝝꝝꝝ ꝝꝝꝝꝝ
(ꝝꝝꝝ ꝝꝝꝝ)
Grand Council of the Crees
(Eeyou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris
(Eeyou Istchee)



*Season's Greetings to all Eeyouch/Eenouch
of Eeyou Istchee!*

*The spirit of the holiday season is in the air,
Christmas trees are decorated with ornaments and lights,
Stockings are hung
And generations of family are gathering in the spirit of giving and sharing.
Cherish the laughter and joy this Christmas
And may the love and smiles you receive last throughout the New Year!
Take the time to admire the beauty of the land we call home
And rejoice in the holiday spirit!*

*Grand Chief Matthew Mukash
Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff*



editorial

The silent crime of child poverty

by Will Nichols

In 1989, an unusual thing happened in Canada's House of Commons. Members briefly forgot about party lines and unanimously voted to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000.

In retrospect, perhaps it is little surprise that, almost eight years after that deadline came and went, there has been no change in Canada's child poverty rates. About 12 per cent – or about one of every eight – of Canada's children still live in poverty. That is the same rate that galvanized the federal parties to set the ambitious goal in the first place.

Maybe complete elimination was an overly optimistic goal. But for Canada to make no progress whatsoever, despite unprecedented prosperity, is an historic aberration and a source of collective shame.

On November 20, UNICEF Canada issued a disturbing report on Canada's efforts to comply with the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. Worse, child poverty in Canada seems to have a racial bent. UNICEF's 2007 National Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada said First Nations and immigrants are hit the hardest and more often than other Canadians.

The First Nations population is young and growing and child poverty rates are a formidable barrier. Indeed, 28 per cent of Aboriginal children in First Nations communities were living in poverty in 2001, as were 40 per cent living outside First Nation communities.

This is far higher than the national average, and the numbers are getting worse. The poverty rate for aboriginal children is close to three times that of other Canadian children. It's something we all knew but the report brings it out into the open. The report goes on to say children in some aboriginal communities lack access to adequate housing, clean water and good education.

The infant mortality rate for First Nations children is almost double the rate of non-aboriginal children.



December is
Aids Awareness
month

Last April, Canada's treatment of its aboriginal children was called "a national total disgrace" by Senator Romeo Dallaire.

"They're living in the Third World," said Dallaire, a retired general who led a UN mission during the genocide in Rwanda in the mid-1990s. "You wonder if you're a colonial white man in black Africa," he said, recalling testimony that while Canada ranked among the top-five countries on a UN human development index, Canada's aboriginal population lagged in 78th place.

Child poverty effects are also being felt in the classrooms, according to the Canadian Teachers Federation. Children who are hungry simply don't learn well. The CTF also pointed out they are now seeing students who don't even have winter clothing.

Calling Canada a banana republic is getting uncomfortably close to the truth as disparities in income continue to approach Third World levels. Among the world's industrialized nations, Statistics Canada said this great nation has one of the highest rates of children living in welfare-supported households and a disproportionate number of them are First Nations and ethnic minority children. The same can be said for larger numbers of First Nations children in the justice system, state care and youth detention centres compared to the percentages of non-Aboriginal children.

Food banks report that over 280,000 children used their services last year. This is close to double the number of children who used them back when politicians became concerned about child poverty.

Stronger legislation and a national plan are urgently needed to improve the lives of children, said the UNICEF study. Another recommendation is that Canada should have a national children's commissioner to ensure the rights of children are being protected and that the government is respecting the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

There is a lot of work to be done to protect our future. As the report demonstrates, we are far from even starting to work on adequate solutions. It's time to end the 18 years of inaction for the most vulnerable citizens of our society.

Contents

editorial

The silent crime of
child poverty 3

rez notes

Wino chiyeyo 4

news

First Nations Bank 5

O-J Chief sworn in 7

In brief 9

feature

Rez School

Survivor payments 10

Spread the cheer 13

The holiday blues 15

Time for stories 17

The *Nation*

Christmas Guide 19

Under the Northern Sky

It's a small world after all 23



Wino chiyeyo



by
Sonny Orr

I watch a lot of TV to learn a lot of things. I tried tuning in to the youth channels and found out that, hey, youth is cool. They got something that I wished I had: a cool today, gone tomorrow type of attitude. Like, who cares? What I do today – will I still care about it tomorrow?

Is life that fleeting or is it that eternal youth only lasts a year or two? Perhaps the networks have it right for a change. What is today is today, tomorrow always comes a bit too late for yesterday's news and today's catch is always fresh but has a good chance of smelling bad if not discarded as hastily as the next tidbit on the talking head's teleprompter line.

As the television show wore on it focused on a specialty program, which I thought a bit odd because it showcased a rare scenario: wine for kids. But I was in for a surprise. The kids were full of questions, like, how did the wine come in that colour? Why can't it be in a can? Why can only adults drink it? And so on.

It taught me that children can learn that wine is something to be revered and used in moderation. As well, the process of making the wine appealed to the little scientist in some of them. Many children had no idea that wine was made from grapes. I popped a surprise quiz question just to show that not everything is as obvious as wine from grapes: What are Rice Krispies made of?

For several long minutes, the barrage of answers came flying back, none of them anywhere close to the truth. One little tyke somehow had equated everything to be a derivative of spaghetti (or sgabetti) and another was convinced that it was a cousin of cheese sticks.

Wrong, I declared. Rice Krispies are made from rice, prompting an astonished bellow of disbelief came from the dinner table, forks and

spoons raised up in defiance to the absolute answer. One kid grimaced and declared that he didn't like rice and therefore the thing he had in his mouth could not possibly be made of something so gruesome while another rolled her eyes and scratched her curly tussled hair, until a glow or revelation came to her puzzled face. Aha, rice... I see.

The little boy pointed to his glass of orange juice and stated rather rightly that it was made from oranges. The other declared that orange juice came from a frozen can and a dispute ensued: the can or the orange?

I stepped in and ordered them to continue with their breakfast. The topic of wine was still on the boob tube and the topic of drinking wine during a meal was brought up. The little boy, with his wide eyes and pointing finger flustered out that there was a little boy drinking wine with the adults at a dinner table. "How come we aren't doing that too?"

Good question. You got me, I quickly thought. How do you answer that without creating some ripple effect in 10 years, forever damaging some bright kid's future with some misconception?

I replied that because there isn't enough good drinking water to go around for everyone they have to drink wine or else they will go thirsty. An acknowledging sigh of relief came out from the kids; they were so glad that they had water to make their tea and to add to juice concentrates and they felt sorry for those poor children across the ocean.

They both declared that no matter how poor things got, that they would always make sure that water is available to drink and that they wouldn't have to resort to drinking a poor man's drink at the dinner table. Wisdom enough for this grown up.

the Nation is published every two weeks
by Beesum Communications

EDITORIAL BOARD

W. Nicholls, L. Stewart, N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Will Nicholls

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Steve Bonspiel

IYIYUU AYIMUUN EDITOR

Brian Webb

COPY EDITOR

Lyle Stewart

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

A. German, C. MacKinnon, X. Kataquapit, S. Orr

PHOTOGRAPHY

S. Bonspiel, D. Valade, N. Diamond, W. Nicholls

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES

Linda Ludwick

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Danielle Valade

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Claire MacKinnon

LAYOUT & PRODUCTION

R. Lawson

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:

POSTMASTER:

The Nation PRODUCTION OFFICE

4529 CLARK, #403

MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3

EDITORIAL & ADS

TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

The Nation HEAD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 151, CHIASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

www.beesum-communications.com

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com

news@beesum-communications.com

Ads: ads@beesum-communications.com

Classifieds: beesum@beesum-communications.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS:

\$45 PLUS TAXES

ABROAD: INDIVIDUALS: \$70 U.S.

ABROAD: INSTITUTIONS: \$85 U.S.

PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNI-

CATIONS

PRINTED BY IMPRIMERIE LEBONFON

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005

ISSN #1206-2642

The Nation IS A MEMBER OF:

THE JAMES BAY CREE

COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,

CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL

CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,

MAGAZINES CANADA

QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN.

CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSN.

LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC

We acknowledge the financial support of
the Government of Canada through
the Canada Magazine Fund toward our editorial costs.

Canada

Majority aboriginal ownership for First Nations Bank

By Claire MacKinnon

First Nations Bank of Canada is now the first Canadian bank to be majority Aboriginal-owned, with aboriginal shareholders holding 91 per cent of the bank – with 19.7 per cent owned by the Cree Regional Authority Board of Compensation and the James Bay Eeyou Corporation.

Founded in 1996, First Nations Bank is the brainchild of the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, and the Toronto-Dominion Bank. With the October 29 transaction, TD Bank becomes a minority shareholder, and will continue to hold a 9 per cent interest in common shares. TD will also continue providing services to First Nations Bank, including the use of its vast network of automatic banking machines.

"The intent from day one was to create an Aboriginal-owned and controlled independent bank," said Keith Martell, Executive Chair of the First Nations Bank of Canada.

This was precisely what the Cree Regional Authority Board of Compensation was looking for when they became a major shareholder in the bank in 2000.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director of the Grand Council, also sits on the Board of Directors of the First Nations Bank. Although many of the big banks provide financial services through designated aboriginal branches, Namagoose points out that none of those banks actually have aboriginal ownership.

It is aboriginal ownership which is the key to a healthy Cree economy, Namagoose told *the Nation*.

"Crees have always wanted to control their economy. They've made great speeches to that effect," he said. "We have a Cree airline, a Cree construction business, and we need a lot more other Cree businesses. Financial institutions are the next phase that aboriginal people in Canada should get into."

Although there is currently a full-service branch of First Nations Bank in Chisasibi, established in 1998, the only other service centre of the bank is in Nemaska. It is up to the individual band councils to decide if they want to transfer their business to the bank.

Jack Blacksmith, Chairman of the Cree Board of Compensation, believes that Cree ownership in First Nations Bank also means that there will be more support for long-term business-oriented projects that are unique to the Cree Nation. This fills a gap in the Cree economy, Blacksmith says.

"We do have funding to develop ourselves in terms of social aspects, but there's not so much money earmarked for economic development."

After only 10 years in operation, the total assets of the bank are estimated at over \$209 million.

Other major shareholders in the bank include Aboriginal groups from the Yukon, Saskatchewan and Manitoba as well as the Atuqtuarvik Corporation of Nunavut and the Gwich'in Tribal Council of the Northwest Territories.

Keith Martell also explained the importance of financial institutions to nation-building.

"There isn't a country in the world that doesn't have nationally-owned banks that are owned or controlled within their country," Martell said. "Financial services help you fulfill your goals as a nation. If you're not in control of those levels of financial service or power or direction, you're at a disadvantage."

What makes First Nations Bank different from the other major financial institutions in Canada, Martell told *the Nation*, is that their primary goal is the enhancement of the Aboriginal economy. For example, while commercial account managers in most major Canadian banks might handle 100 to 150 business accounts, the same account managers at First Nations Bank would have about 50 business accounts. This is because the higher number of start-up businesses in many First Nations communities means there is more work involved to ensure their success.

"At the end of the day we find good business," Martell said. "It may cost us a little bit more to deliver it, but ultimately that's what our customers and our shareholders want."



Chisasibi branch of the First Nations Bank and Bill Namagoose and Keith Martell of its Board of Directors

More choices at the best price



Wishing all
Happiness, Peace
and Prosperity
this Holiday Season



HUARD
& COMPAGNIE

350, 3e, Chibougamau (Quebec) G8P 1N5
Tel.: (418) 748-4042 ou (418) 748-2442
Telex.: (418) 748-4542

Wishing everyone in
Eeyou Istchee a safe and
happy holiday season.

PL ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-
ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-
ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-
ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-ɁɁ-



Cree Nation of Mistissini



PETRONOR

Distributor of petroleum products and
lubricants in all the James Bay Territory.

Services:

Delivery of petroleum products in bulk,
Aviation fuel, Rental of movable tanks

Products:

Unleaded gas, Clear and colored diesel,
Stove oil, Jet-A, 100LL and Lubricants

Addresses:

www.petonor.ca

Radisson Depot:

Tel: (819) 638-8222 Fax: (819) 638-7107

La Grande Rivière Airport:

Tel: (819) 638-4547 Fax: (819) 638-4547

EM-1 Construction Site:

Tel: (819) 865-2045 Fax: (819) 865-2039

Chisasibi Gas Station:

Tel: (819) 855-2427 Fax: (819) 855-3462

Administration Offices:

Tel: (819) 824-5505 Fax: (819) 824-5420

www.yvon-levesque.com



Joyeux Noël et bonne année 2008

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Yvon Lévesque

Député d'Abitibi - Baie-James - Nunavik - Eeyou

1 - 8 8 8 - 8 2 4 - 2 9 4 2



O-J Chief Wapachee sworn in during emotional ceremony

By Claire MacKinnon

Former Chief Sam Bosum passed the reigns of leadership to Ouje-Bougoumou's first female Chief, Louise Wapachee, in a special inauguration ceremony held November 20.

Grand Chief Matthew Mukash acted as official witness for the proceedings, which were officiated by Pastor Enoch Hall.

Mistissini council advisor Henry Mianscum was the guest speaker of the evening, which included speeches by former and current chiefs and band councillors, as well as song, poetry and a short play composed specifically for the event.

Deputy Chief Anthony Hughboy, and Councillors Gerry Bosum, Sam Bosum, Patrick Mianscum, Darlene Shecapio-Blacksmith and Janie Wapachee were also sworn in during the ceremony, which was followed by a feast at the OJ Sports Complex.

The ceremony attracted constituents young and old as the youth and Elders of the community came out to support their new chief. The children of the chiefs and council escorted the inductees into the ceremony, while the mothers of the chief and deputy chief presented them with traditional beaded vests.

"I didn't expect it to be that grand," Louise Wapachee said of the ceremony. Although she knew her mother was preparing something for the ceremony, the new Chief was pleasantly surprised when Maggie Wapachee gave her a beaded vest she had sewn for the occasion.

Chief Wapachee's father, Matthew Wapachee, told the Nation he is confident in his daughter's abilities. "I'm glad Louise will be Chief, I know she can handle the job."

He also had some advice for his daughter. "I told Louise, 'You have to look after the people who cannot work or look after themselves.' "

Wapachee is highly influenced by her father's discipline and hard work. In her inauguration speech, she praised his example of how a family should be, describing how Mathew Wapachee spent a large part of his time away from the family, so he could provide food and housing for them.

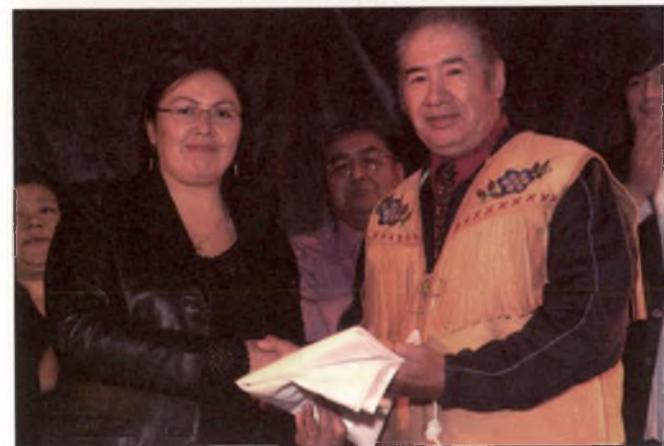
Chief Wapachee appeared to heed her father's advice, as she pledged to listen to the people of OJ, including the Elders and the Youth. In her inauguration speech she emphasized the importance of "sharing, caring and respect," as well as advocating on behalf of others.

Wapachee wants to restore community unity and to build trust and credibility in the administration. Her mandate is also an opportunity to recover the past: Wapachee had already been elected to serve as Chief in 2001 only to have her power taken away in a still-obscure legal manoeuvre.

Louise Wapachee also has a message for Eeyou Istchee: "I also want to implore our friends and neighbours to listen to the voice of our people for our right to be recognized. We count on your friendship to understand our need to govern ourselves in the manner that you have inspired and taught us."



Receiving gifts



Handing over the reigns of power



*Merry Christmas
Happy New Year!*

ମୁହଁରା ଶିରାଜାନ୍ତିର
ଶିରାଜାନ୍ତିରିରୁ ପାଇଁ
ଶିରାଜାନ୍ତିରିରୁ ପାଇଁ





Season's Greetings!

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations and AFN Regional Chiefs, I hope you enjoy a happy and festive holiday season.

May the Creator keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy throughout the New Year.

Phil Fontaine, National Chief

The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada.

473 Albert Street, suite 810
Ottawa, ON K1R 5B4
Telephone: 613-241-6789
Toll-free: 1-866-869-6789
Fax: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca



**ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC**

Luc Ferland

St. Vé

Député d'Ungava
Député d'Ungava

Porte-parole du deuxième parti d'opposition
en matière d'affaires autochtones
et de développement du Nord québécois

Assemblée Nationale du Québec
462, 3^e Rue, bureau 12
Chibougamau, QC, G8P 1N7
Téléphone: 418 748-6046
Télécopieur: 418 748-3255
lferland-unga@assnat.qc.ca

C'est un privilège pour moi de pouvoir vous transmettre aujourd'hui mes voeux les plus sincères à l'occasion de Noël et du Jour de l'An.

En cette période des fêtes, je vous invite à faire preuve de générosité et à avoir une pensée spéciale pour les plus démunis de notre société, les personnes seules et celles qui éprouvent des difficultés. Faisons en sorte que cette période de festivités soit aussi célébrée sous le signe du partage et de la solidarité.

En mon nom et en celui de ma formation politique, je vous souhaite donc de chaleureuses fêtes et une nouvelle année sous le signe de la paix, de la justice et de la tolérance.

2



Season's Greetings!

*A business where
service is tradition!*



**HÔTEL/MOTEL
CONTINENTAL**
www.hmcontinental.ca

932 3rd Avenue, Val-d'Or
Contact: richard.hmcontinental@ondenet.com

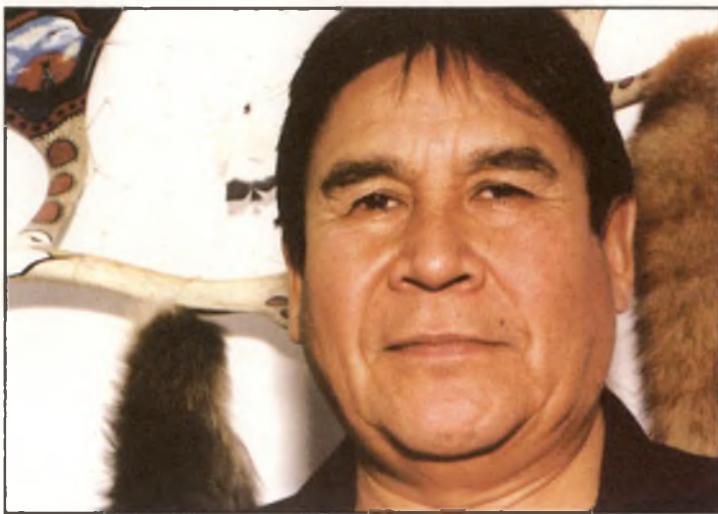
1-800-567-6477 • (819) 824-9651
www.hmcontinental.ca



It is a privilege for me to be able to send you my sincere wishes for the holidays.

In this festive season, I invite all of you to be generous and to have a special thought for the less fortunate in our society. Let's celebrate this holiday season with sharing and solidarity in mind.

It is my wish and the one of my political party, that all of you spend a warm Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, justice and tolerance.



Chief David Masty, Sr. in Memorium

Former Whapmagoostui Chief David Masty Sr. has died after his snowmobile plunged through lake ice while on a hunting trip. Masty had been missing from his brother Robbie's hunting camp, where he had been staying with his family, since the morning of November 28. The camp is approximately 100 km northeast of Whapmagoostui.

David Masty's family became concerned when he did not return by 6 pm. He hadn't taken supplies for an overnight trip on the land.

A search began on the morning of November 29 and ended when search parties found snowmobile tracks leading to the scene of the accident.

It appears Masty's machine went through the ice. His body was recovered and returned to Whapmagoostui, where he was pronounced dead at 5:45 pm November 29, said Whapmagoostui Police Senior Officer Patrick Masty.

David Masty Sr. was Chief of Whapmagoostui from 2000 to 2006, and at the time of his death was serving as a Councillor on the Band Council. Although Masty was semi-retired, he continued to work on a good governance by-law that he had introduced as Chief. He was also part of a Grand Council subcommittee working to get a road built to Whapmagoostui.

Masty was well-respected in his community. Current Whapmagoostui Chief Losty Mamianskum said, "He was a great man. He was the kind of person and politician that most people wish they could be, in terms of being principled, open, patient, and very democratic. He had all the qualities that we aspire to be and we will all miss him. But we can also be thankful for his contributions to the Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui and the whole Cree Nation as well."

Grand Chief Mathew Mukash saluted Masty's 40 years of service to his community.

"He was a knowledgeable and very wise man," said Mukash. "In my case, he was a role model. When I saw that he had graduated from high school, I wanted to follow. He played a big role in my life in getting to where I am. He was like the older brother I never had."

Diamond wins 'Skag election

Steve Diamond is the new Chief of Waskaganish after beating out Simeon Trapper in the special election held November 19.

Diamond received 372 votes, with Trapper receiving 133. Five ballots were rejected.

Waskaganish expects to set an election date for Deputy Chief soon, as Diamond vacated his former post as the second-in-command after winning the election for Chief.

The election for council chief was made necessary when Gordon Blueboy abruptly resigned as Chief in September, after serving only one month of a four-year term.

No summer hockey in Abitibi

During a board meeting October 30, Hockey Abitibi-Témiscamingue ruled the organization could ban any AAA players who played summer hockey.

The minor hockey group has provided penalties up to and including suspensions for any players that participate in summer league competition before the winter season ended. This also includes participation any non-Hockey Quebec leagues. The league is suggesting that their players take up another sport or activity during the off season.

Hockey Abitibi-Témiscamingue, which strictly abides by the rules and regulations of Hockey Quebec, is enforcing the rule in the guidelines that states, "No member shall participate in summer hockey before the end of his winter team's season."

Because a season is not only comprised of the standard practices and games but also heats, tournaments, festivals, and regional or provincial championships, they fear that over a summer season the young players could lose both momentum and focus.

According to the rulebook, "any organisation that condones the participation of one or more of its members in activities not recognised by Hockey Quebec during the winter season, may see one or more teams be excluded from regional and provincial championships."

In addition, Hockey Quebec does not recognize the AAA title that takes place in the fall according to their regulation book, and likewise with Pee-Wee or Bantam levels.

Hockey Témiscamingue made the announcement so that those who wish to participate in summer hockey would be fully aware that should they engage in summer hockey leagues, sanctions could follow.



The good news is that survivors of the residential school system are finally being compensated after many years of fighting with the federal government for just recourse for the century of abuse they suffered in the church-run schools.

The bad news is that, much like recent government programs from passports to gun registration, it's not coming off without considerable difficulties. Two months after the program opened for business, cheques are just now starting to trickle out and some payments are lower than they should be.

Not that the compensation fund isn't useful for the government. The Montreal Gazette has reported that the Tory government borrowed \$82.6 million from the fund, injecting cash into other programs. But a day after the story ran November 16, Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl denied this had ever happened.

Improprieties aside, said NDP Indian Affairs critic Jean Crowder, "There are still some very serious problems going on. One of them is, of course, the speed of payment. There are a significant number of people who are saying that they still don't have their payments. And then when they are getting them, they don't match the formula."

Crowder said that, in some cases, the payment per year for the number of years that they were in a residential school did not add up. "And there is no explanation that is coming along with the cheque to explain the difference in the calculation."

Though the government originally proposed that the cheques would be in the mail within 30 to 60 days of the application date, many who applied for their funds September 19 have yet to receive their funding. It has been estimated that the government has already received 74,000 applications.

"They should have ensured that all of the resources were in place to rapidly process payment because people have been waiting for far too long," said Crowder. "They have not resourced this properly to ensure rapid pay outs."

Crowder suggested that those who have not received their payments in a timely manner should contact their MPs. Because there is already a backlog in the system, she added, there is no time like the present to apply.

THE CHEAPEST DEAL

Difficult to obtain, slow to arrive and under-calculated: for many, residential school survivor payments are too little, too late

By Amy German

How it's supposed to work

Since September 19, residential school survivors have been eligible to file for Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement Funds. In some instances people may apply on the behalf of those who died before the program came into effect.

Everyone who lived within the confines of a residential school or a federal hostel is eligible for the Common Experience Payment, provided that the school or hostel they attended is on the federal government's list. For this kind of compensation, survivors are supposed to receive \$10,000 for the first year of residential school they attended and an additional \$3,000 for every year or partial school year that followed. The same applies for the hostels.

The forms and a guide to help you apply for this compensation are available online at the Service Canada website.

"They are simple," explained Diane Soroka, an attorney who specializes in Aboriginal law. "You include the name you were known by at the school. For women who have been married and changed their name, they are going to need their marriage certificates to show their name change. You list the names of the schools and the years that you went approximately and you send it off with the identification. If they want either an original birth certificate or a photocopy of two other pieces of identification, it's all explained quite clearly in the form and the attached document that tells you how to fill it out."

The institution in question has to be on the list of recognized residential schools and hostels and there are some that have yet to be added. Soroka is fighting to add three hostels in Mistissini to the list. She is quite confident those institutions will be included, but the process may take more than six months.

"People who were in those hostels have to wait until they get put on the list and we will let them know as soon as it happens. But it will probably take quite a while because they [Indian Affairs] are inundated," Soroka said.

The second form of payment is the Independent Assessment Process (IAP). It accepts claims for certain types of abuse that will win a victim additional compensation. It covers any kind of sexual abuse, be it inappropriate touching or kissing and any kind

“FOR A CRIME OF THE CENTURY LIKE THAT, I THINK IT’S THE CHEAPEST DEAL ON THE PLANET”

of sexual aggression. It will also compensate for severe physical abuse.

The physical abuse would have caused unconsciousness, burning, or left scars and permanent injuries. Other criteria includes the need at the time of medical attention, and/or several days of bed rest or rest in the infirmary. Corporal punishment, such as “the strap,” is already covered within the common experience fund.

“And then there is a third form of abuse which is a bit of an odd category – it’s called ‘Other Wrongful Acts,’ which led to severe psychological harm,” said Soroka. “It encompasses other forms of abuse such as those who were singled out by supervisors and subjected to ridicule, humiliation, and verbal abuse to the point where the victim had a severe psychological breakdown.”

A separate form must be filled out for an IAP and is a much more complicated process that requires legal assistance. Soroka says, however, that it is not as complicated as going to trial and the Canadian government is willing to pay for a portion of the legal fees. The way money is awarded through an IAP is based on a grid system with levels of abuse that have a certain range of points awarded.

“There are a couple of other things that get looked at, like consequential income loss,” said Soroka. If an individual was underemployed or unemployed because they left the school too early or they were traumatized and it led to a lifetime of income loss, these things are taken into consideration.

The range of compensation could be from \$5,000 for a relatively minor instance of touching, up to \$275,000 for abuse that caused very severe psychological harm. “You have people who are psychotic and who are basically unable to function and if that is the case they would get something close to the maximum,” said Soroka.

Filing for the dead

If you have a relative who survived the residential schools and they were alive up until May 30, 2005, the executor can file for the Common Experience funds on behalf of the deceased person’s estate. The family of the deceased must select a representative who will do the filing and distribute the funds. The executor does not need to be a relative, nor does the family need to decide on them unanimously.

“It’s not that complex but it has to be done,” said Soroka. “What people have to understand is that the person who is mak-



ing the claim, is doing it on behalf of all of the heirs. That money does not belong to him.”

Deceased individuals are not eligible for the IAP compensation.

The deadline for making the applications for the common experience payment and the IAP is four years from the original filing date, September 19, 2011.

It’s not enough for some

For Paul Dixon of Waswanipi, who is a Cree trapper and vocal residential school survivor, the program is just another case of the government doling out too little and way too late.

“Just 10 minutes ago I saw my brother John and he said, ‘Look, I got my cheque, but you know what? They still owe me,’” said Dixon. His brother complained that approximately \$9,000 was missing and that the envelope he received provided very little explanation other than that he should apply for the rest of his funding sometime in January.

“Several people got their cheques this morning and I just told them that I was so happy for them. For a crime of the century like that, I think it’s the cheapest deal on the planet,” said Dixon.

Dixon argued that the deal is insufficient because it does not include his parents, who were threatened with prison sentences among other things if they did not hand over their children to the schools.

“When my father talked to other Elders he would refer to us as the stolen people because he was a victim himself. His children were stolen. It was only in the past 15 years that he has been telling me bits and pieces, I did not know that my mother cried from September to June and I found out that my dad cried a lot too,” said Dixon.

Though no amount of money will ever make up for what Paul Dixon longs for most, a childhood that should have been spent traditionally, in the company of his extended family, he is now facing something much worse: losing family members, mainly to diabetes.

Dixon spoke of how he had just lost his relative Kenny Dixon, who died at the age of 54, and how so many have waited so long for this compensation that they are passing away long before they even heard an apology on the behalf of the churches or the government.

“The government is waiting so long on this and so the government has won. They saved a lot of money. They saved because our people are dying.”

DISTRIBUTION CENTER



HUNTING • FISHING
CAMPING • CLOTHING
CANVAS



FINANCING AVAILABLE
C.O.D. ACCEPTED

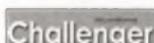
DISTRIBUTOR: NOR-WEST CANOE

THE #1 STORE FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS
DELIVERY TO JAMES BAY

4, Nottaway street, Matagami Tel.: (819) 739-3883
nancy@nord-select.qc.ca Fax: (819) 739-3885

WELCOME

WACHIYA



Remington



CARPET

CERAMIC

MATAGAMI

9, Nottaway street
Tel.: (819) 739-2578
Fax: (819) 739-3619

LINOLEUM
FLOATING
FLOORS

CABIN SPECIALIST

TRUSSES

REBAR

TREATED

WOOD



INTERIOR
SERVICES OF
DECORATION
DOORS
WINDOWS
HARDWARE

DIST: LAFARGE CEMENT

**THE #1 STORE IN JAMES BAY
FOR 30 YEARS**



Marc Cossette
Sales Rep.



*Good Deals on
second hand pick-ups,
2005-2006,
low mileage*



F150-4 doors

Ford Dealer in Amos
42, 10e Avenue Ouest
Amos Qc, J9T 1W8
Tel : (866) 468-3205

Tel : (819) 732-3205



2008 Escape

*Come and visit us
at Soma Auto*
SOMA AUTO

Fax : (819) 732-8111



the Nation

December 7, 2007

www.beesum-communications.com/nation

SPREAD THE CHEER to those who need it most

By Amy German

One of the best parts of the holidays is when everyday people play Santa, not only by lavishing gifts upon those they know and love, but by opening up their hearts, cupboards, closets and pocket books to those in need.

If your financial cup runneth over this season or if you find yourself with some extra non-perishable goods and clothes around the house that are not being used anymore, there are a whole bevy of organizations, community groups and charitable groups that can put your contributions to good use.

If you want to help out the less fortunate, read on: the Nation has prepared a unique giving guide for help you help those who can't help themselves. From cash donations to food drives to toy collections to caribou hunts for the needy, there are so many ways that you can help out this season and make it brighter for those who are less fortunate.

Local drives in the communities

Led by Santa Claus on his sleigh, the Chisasibi Fire and Public Security Departments have already launched their annual donation drive. The band office has also been collecting for their annual food bank campaign. Those who are looking to contribute can contact the band office at (819) 855-2878

In Eastmain, the local wellness centre is co-ordinating a holiday food drive. Collection boxes can be found at the Northern Store, the grocery store, SG dépanneur, Stacy Sports & Crafts and the band office as well as the wellness centre. The deadline for donations is December 14. For more information call (819) 977-2000.

The annual Wreath of Hope Campaign is underway in Mistissini, organized by the Meechum grocery store. Last year the campaign surpassed its goal of \$25,000 by \$3,000 to help needy families not just at Christmas but throughout the year. This year's goal is again \$25,000, but when it comes to organizations that help those in need in your community, more is always better. The Wreath of Hope Campaign will be collecting food and monetary and toy donations. Meechum will be accepting donations all the way up to December 20. For more information, call (418) 923-3217.

In Nemaska, Brenda Rose at the band office is accepting cash among other donations to help pay for activities for the whole community. They also distribute donated gift baskets for single-parent families and toys for less fortunate children. As the community regularly accepts items to raffle off at the New Year's party, businesses are encouraged to give just about anything they want, from new tires to oil changes, as all of the funds generated from the raffle go right back into offsetting community activities for the holidays. Anyone looking to make a contribution should contact Brenda Rose at (819) 673-2512.

The people of Ouje-Bougoumou have all kinds of activities going on this holiday season to help out not only the disadvantaged of their own community but also those of the nearby Anishnabe

First Nation of Lac Simon. The Police Department is handling the local food and toy drive with collection boxes at the Fire Department and at the local band office. The local Women's Ministry is also collecting money, clothing, gift certificates for grocery stores and other non-perishable items.

Lac Simon has a high rate of poor children who need toys, clothes and food to help brighten their holidays. O-J is also looking to other Cree communities for assistance in this endeavour. The band office, in conjunction with the Women's Ministry, is also accepting donations to go towards Christmas turkeys for needy families.

O-J will also be conducting two caribou hunts to harvest meat for hungry families locally and in Lac Simon. The Police Department will host the first hunt December 15 while the second will be organized by the cultural department December 22 for the benefit of Lac Simon families. For more information, contact the band office, the police, the cultural department or the women's ministry.

In Waswanipi, Gloria Joly is in charge of charitable activities through National Child Benefit Services. To contribute or for more information call her at (819) 753-2450. Bianca Albert is organizing the local food drive; call (819) 753-2828.

The band office in Whapmagoostui is conducting their local collection at the band office. A collection box can be found there to collect everything from food to toys to second-hand clothing.

No information was available on the community of Waskaganish due to a recent flooding in the band office. No information was available for Wemindji at press time.

Outside of the communities there are other ways to help out needy urban Aboriginals. The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal is chronically underfunded. Though they do receive government support, it is never enough to help out the women and children who arrive on the group's doorstep, fleeing desperate and often violent situations. The best way to help the shelter is with monetary donations, though they always welcome clothing for women and children, from new-born sizes up to women's plus sizes. Cheques can be made out to Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and the address to mail them is as follows:

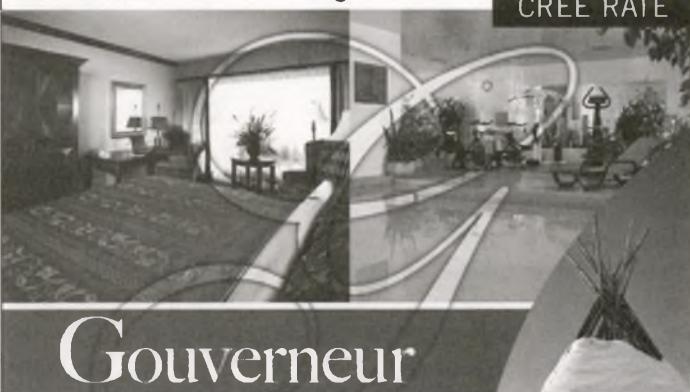
P.O. Box 1183, Station A
Montreal, Quebec
H3C 2Y3

For more information: www.nwsm.info/welcome-en.html

The Native Friendship Centre of Montreal also helps many marginalized Aboriginals in the Montreal area. They need just about everything under the sun, from funding to toys for kids to food to blankets. In that the Friendship Centre runs a gamut of programs, from support groups to community meals to the street outreach programs, they can use a wide variety of items. Have a look at the different items that can be contributed at www.nfcm.org/ or call (514) 499-1854.

Wachiya!

SPECIAL
CREE RATE



Gouverneur

345 ROOMS - 7 SUITES - 14 MEETING ROOMS - INDOOR POOL
FITNESS ROOM - RESTAURANT & BAR - FREE WIRELESS HIGH SPEED
INTERNET ACCESS THROUGHOUT HOTEL - LOYALTY PROGRAM



GOUVERNEUR
HÔTEL
PLACE DUPUIS MONTRÉAL

1-888-910-1111
www.gouverneur.com

Downtown Montréal

1415, rue Saint-Hubert,
Montréal (QC) H2L 3Y9
Tel. : 514-842-4881
Fax : 514-842-8899



Nemaska Motel & Restaurant

Wishing all of our customers
wonderful holidays filled
with joy and happiness.

Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year from all the staff of
Nemaska Motel & Restaurant.



2 Lake shore Rd. - Nemaska - Quebec - JOY 3B0
Tel.: (819) 673-2615 Fax: (819) 673-2233



Specific Agreement On Tourism

for the Eeyou Istchee

Do you have a business or activity that contributes to the tourism industry of Eeyou Istchee?

If so, you may be able to benefit from the Specific Agreement on Tourism.

The objective of this agreement is to increase the tourism activity and to support job creation within the tourism sector in Eeyou Istchee.

This agreement supports projects within the following sectors:

- Promotion
- Development of Tourist Potential
- Lodging
- Attractions
- Activities & Equipment
- Events
- Camping
- Outfitting

For further information, regarding the application and approval process, please contact:

Jeannette Rojas
Program Officer - Cree Regional Authority
277 Duke Street, suite 102
Montreal, QC H3C 2M2
Phone: (514) 861-5837
Fax: (514) 861-0760
jrojas@gcc.ca

“Thanking you in advance for your application, and for demonstrating your willingness to increase the tourist activity within Eeyou Istchee.”

The holiday blues are no gift at Christmas

By Amy German

As the holidays roll around, the hearts of many swell with anticipation of cherished time with family members, gift sharing and endless celebrations. For some, however, the Christmas season is the most depressing time of year.

"The holidays are the darkest time of the year and it's very hard for those who get the winter blues," said Martine Drolet, a nurse who is the program officer for sexual and mental health in the Cree Public Health Department.

Depression is a common ailment in December because for many the holidays are a crisis time that conjures up unhappy memories or exacerbate an already difficult life. That's why Public Health has begun to screen for depression during regular doctor's visits.

"We created a little document [for doctors and health professionals] on how to ask people about depression. So if you come in for the flu, if doctors and nurses ask a question like, 'How do you feel?' it is going to be preventing a lot of depression and a lot of suicide attempts," Drolet explained.

"If you are feeling depressed, you need to consult a doctor or any health professional as there is a lot of chemistry involved that could perhaps be treated medically," she added.

If someone is showing signs of depression, such as a dramatic shift in behaviour or expressing feelings of hopelessness, despair and suicidal ideation, or if you notice major changes in appetite and sleep patterns, being apathetic or withdrawing, these are all signs that someone may need help.

Substance abuse can also play a factor in depression, according to Drolet. She recommends that alcohol and drugs be avoided for those who have depressive tendencies, as they can be a catalyst for those who are already feeling down.

"For example, if you drank all weekend, on Monday morning you can feel very depressed. Even after a certain level of alcohol, you can get very depressed and that is where we get a lot of suicides. When people are drunk there is an increased risk for suicides," said Dolet. "Drugs also tend to be very depressive. With cocaine you are on a high but when you come down you are going to be very, very depressed."

Whatever the case, should you or someone you know be exhibiting symptoms of depression, do not hesitate to get help by contacting medical professionals in your community. If you or someone you know is looking for someone to talk to, Public Health has provided the following list of resources for those in need.

Kid's Help Phone Line

(800) 668-6868

www.kidshelpphone.ca

Provides immediate caring support to children and youth. Phone counselling, referral and internet services on sexuality, pregnancy, alcohol and substance abuse, suicide, separation, divorce and more.

Youth helpline

(800) 263-2266

www.teljeunes.com

Offers social intervention and educational services for children, youth and parents to prevent family violence.

Rebirth

(866) 738-4873

Monday to Friday, 9 am to 9 pm

www.revivre.org

Telephone service for listening, support and referral for people who have problems with anxiety, panic disorder, depression, post traumatic stress, or agoraphobia.

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence

(800) 363-9010

www.sosviolenceconjugale.com

Offers phone services for listening, evaluation and referral for young woman and woman who live with violence.

Health and Sexuality resources centre

(888) 855-7432

Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 p.m.

www.criss.org

Offers listening and information on Sexual Transmitted Infections.

Gay Helpline

(888) 505-1010

Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am

Phone line to help, support and listen to gays and lesbians, and those close to them. Gives general information and resources on homosexuality.

Parent helpline

(800) 361-5085

www.parenthelpline.ca

Offers parents and caregivers access to support and information on parenting concerns.

Drugs: help and reference

(800) 265-2626

www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca

Provides help and referral services that are confidential, to people who have problems with drugs, to their relatives and peers, and also to community workers.

Gambling: help and reference

(800) 265-2626

www.info-reference.qc.ca

Phone service for listening and referral on compulsive gambling



SABTUAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL
TRAINING CENTRE

1 Elder David Neeposh Street
Waswanipi, Qc., J0Y 3C0
Tel: (819)753-4040, (819)753-2636
Fax: (819)753-2640
Toll Free: 1-866-921-4040

**NEW PROGRAM OFFERED
AT THE "SABTUAN REGIONAL
VOCATIONAL TRAINING
CENTRE" IN WASWANIPI.**

Program : **Accounting** Start Date : **January 09, 2008**

Duration : **1350 hrs** Registration will be taken until **December 14, 2008**

See your Education Consultant at the Sabtuan Continuing Education department in your community or call at the SRVTC (1-866-921-4040) for more information.

For application forms, please see the adult education consultant responsible for your community or call Nancy Mianscum in Waswanipi. Be sure to include all the required documents.

Please send all registrations to the S.R.V.T.C. to the attention of Nancy Mianscum, administrative technician. Fax: 819-753-2640

See also the C.H.R.D.'s Cree Employment Officer (C.E.O.) in your community to arrange your allowances.

For more information
please call 1-866-921-4040
and ask for Nancy Mianscum or Luc Collette.



Jean-Claude Moreau
*Your Northern
Sales Representative!*

1100, 3^e Avenue Est
Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 4P8
Bur.: (819) 825-6880
Fax: (819) 825-8980
1-877-625-6880



Proud to serve the Cree Nation!

Time for story telling

Marie-Odile Junker

The winter months are the traditional time for storytelling. Snuggled around the fire in the tipi, children of all ages would hear the voice of their nuuhkum or nimushum recounting one of those Cree legends that had been repeated since time immemorial. It was a time for laughter, reflection, learning and understanding. It was also an opportunity for togetherness and individual reflection.

Each story had a different medicine that is food for the soul. The stories were not simple. The language was elaborate and rich, and only through repeated exposure would children eventually understand. The many layers of the stories allowed revisiting them to uncover meanings that would apply to one's life, year after year.

Most Cree children who went to residential school were not told those stories. Some started to believe that traditional Cree legends were evil and stopped passing them on to their children. That's why many people today feel a hole, a gap, because of what has been lost.

However, some gifted Cree storytellers are keeping this tradition alive. Young peo-

ple are interested and have eagerly worked to preserve and revive this tradition. If you want to find out for yourself if these stories have medicine for you or your family, several venues are now available to reconnect with this tradition.

Collections of oral Eastern James Bay Cree legends and stories are available for free, in Cree, in an oral stories database on the web: www.eastcree.org/stories

Cree students like Erica Stephen, Suzanne House, Christine Duff, Francine Snowboy, Brian Webb and many others have worked hard over the last four years to edit the sound and describe in Cree, French and English the content of oral material gracefully donated by anthropologists and linguists.

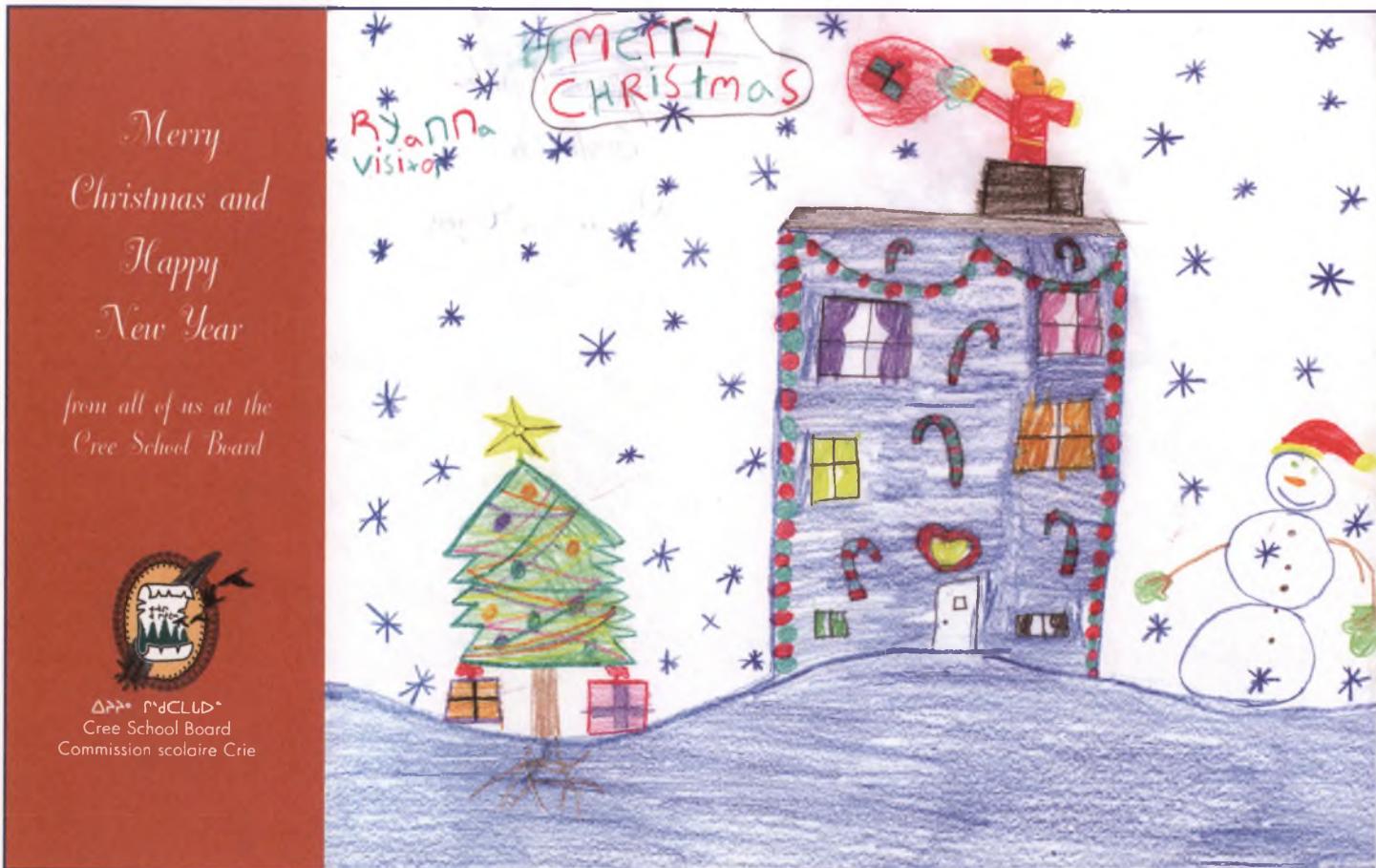
Some of these recordings date back to the 1960s. The sound quality is not always great, but it's good enough to learn back the stories. They can be searched by topic, title, story teller, among others, and downloaded to a computer or to an iPod. Biographies of storytellers are also being added, thanks to the work of Cree Program staff like Margaret Nine O'Clock.

If you are looking for quality, there is the Great Cree Storytellers audio CD series. It's for sale from Cree Programs, Cree School Board*. There are now eight CDs available, featuring two master storytellers: Florrie Mark-Stewart (Southern dialect) and Job Kawapit (Northern dialect). The storytellers were recorded in a studio-like environment, had a say in the editing of the sound files, and retained authorship and control over the final product.

There are new ways to pass on or reclaim traditional knowledge and culture as well as the Cree language. Next time you take your family for one of those long drives on the James Bay highway, why not listen to one of these CDs in the car?

Marie-Odile Junker is a professor of Linguistics at Carleton University. For the past seven years she has collaborated with Cree Programs exploring how modern technologies can help language documentation and preservation. See www.eastcree.org

*To order the Great Cree Storytellers CDs, contact Mabel Pepabano
<mpepabano@cscree.qc.ca> Tel: (819) 855-2230 or Fax: (819) 855-2724.





REVXP

CHEZ NOUS, C'EST
ski-doo



Merry Merry
Christmas and
Happy New Year
to all.

רְאֵלָהָרְבָּן
לְרָבָּרְבָּן
לְרָבָּרְבָּן

Béric Sport

50, 3^e Avenue
Val-d'Or QC J9P 1R2
819 825-5822

We wish everyone in Eeyou Istchee
wonderful holidays and a prosperous New Year.

Boutique

0 à 12 ans

MegAdiy

Vêtements et accessoires pour enfants

Open until midnight

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

- Many specials in store.
- C.O.D. for your convenience.
- On December 13, 14, 15, 16, we pay the taxes on items at regular price if you shop in-store.
- Also, on all C.O.D. we take off the equivalent of the taxes from the price.

20% off
and we pay
both taxes

On all items in-store,
except postal stamps
and church candles.

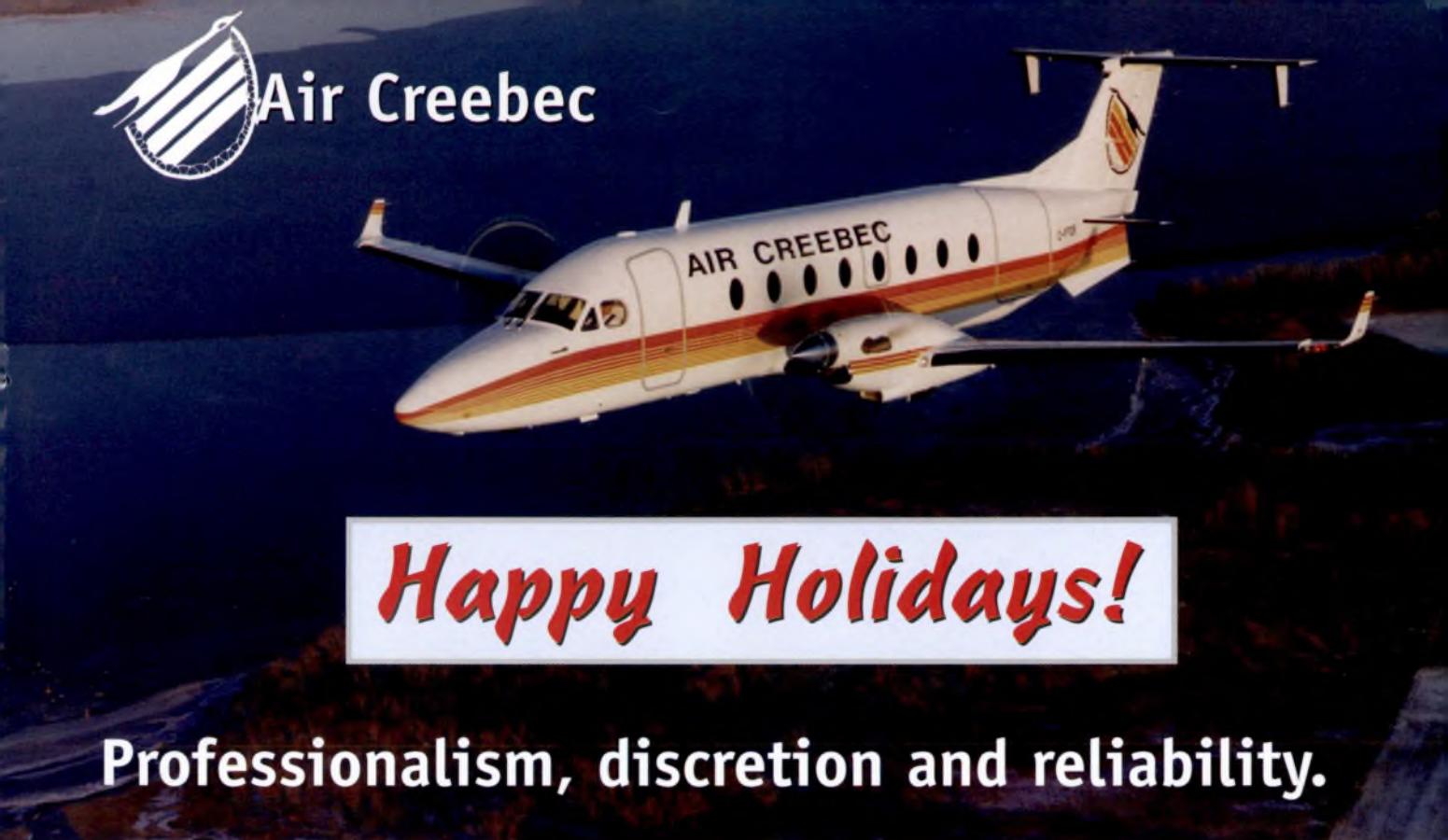
We close at
MIDNIGHT,
take advantage of our specials!



from both of us at Boutique Michou and Boutique Magali.



Air Creebec



Happy Holidays!

Professionalism, discretion and reliability.



For reservations, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567
Or visit our website at: www.aircreebec.ca



H. Cloutier Automobiles Inc.

Finally!

You want to know who are
your 3rd chance, credit experts?



Sylvain,
Owner



Jeff,
Sales Rep



Max,
Sales Rep

Here they are!



Mike,
Used Car Sales Director



Sylvie,
F&I



Johnny,
Sales Rep



Surprise!

Following the success of our Mega-Sale...
Joey Bowden, from Calgary: more than
25 years in the automobile industry, will
stay here until spring to give you advice
on 3rd chance credit.
He can even visit you at home!!!

!!! To all our northern clients !!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

- Access to more than 250 vehicles, of which 153 are trucks.
- Credit problems, lateness, bankruptcy... no problem, we take care of it all!
- 91.6% approval rate. Wow!
- Call for pre-approval
- Before trying to borrow from somewhere else and getting bad credit... begin with the best and you will leave with the vehicle of your choice.



To end 2007 on a good note,
here's what we are offering you!

The H. Cloutier Auto Kit

– only for our northern clients.
When you buy a vehicle,
receive our free gift:

- ** 4 winter tires **
- ** 1 remote starter **
- ** \$500.00 of gas **

Î RΛÎÎ"ÎÎÎ Î Ï Ï Ï Ï

Know the Score.



**Cocaine use can lead to increased risk
of heart attack, seizure, fits, or stroke.**



Conseil de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay



2007 THE NATION Christmas Guide

By Amy German

It's time to make a list, check it twice and buy all sorts of gifts both naughty and nice. Not to mention the celebration planning for swapping the gifts and spreading the season's cheer. Though a select few may have everything already bought, wrapped and under the tree with their Christmas party invitations in the mail, the vast majority of us are getting that flutter in our hearts as there is just so much to get organized. Whatever the case, the Nation is delighted to present its 2007 Christmas Guide to help make your holiday season a success.

Gift Ideas for Mrs. Claus

If you are not sure if your lady is more interested in an MP3 player or a new cell phone, give her the best of both worlds with an MP3 phone. This item will no doubt be one of the biggest sellers this holiday season, particularly as there are so many to choose from. Rogers is offering some particularly good deals this season and are a fairly good bet to go with, take the Sony Ericsson W580i Grey available through Rogers, for example. With a starting price of \$100 with three-year term after rebate, the phone comes with 8 GB of expandable memory, an integrated 2.0 MP digital camera, a walkman phone, picture blogging and various other fascinating features. To find out more go to www.rogers.com/

If, on the other hand, your holiday honey is more of a shutterbug, get her a Canon PowerShot 8MP Digital Camera (SX100IS). It has speed, power, performance, and is guaranteed to deliver vibrant and lifelike photos. Future Shop is asking only \$400, excellent value considering the brand and the capabilities of the camera. For more info: www.futureshop.ca

If your gal is more the athletic type or wants to be that way, help her warm her form by getting her indoor workout gear. The Pilates Core Sculpting with DVD package is ideal. The set comes with an inflatable exercise ball with stabilization ring for balance and sculpting weights that easily attach to the inflatable for resistance and more exercise combinations. The accompanying DVD demonstrates how to use the equipment and adds structure to the work out. www.canadiantire.ca

For the young and glamorous gal who is looking for a sensational new scent, Hilary Duff's With Love is the stuff to stimulate her (and your) senses this holiday season. The fragrance promises to "capture the many sides of Hilary Duff," with "exotic fruits adding an intriguing sparkle to the rich woods and sultry ambers of this effervescent Oriental fragrance." Whether you are a fan of the singing sensation or not, the perfume pretty much speaks for itself and retails for \$75 at The Bay. To order or for more information go to www.hbc.com/landing.html

For the more sophisticated variety of Mrs. Claus, it is hard to go wrong with a delightful pair of pearl earrings. Birks has a wide selection of pearls. They feature some luxurious multicolour 6mm to 7mm Freshwater Pearl Earrings, in 18kt Yellow Gold for only \$115. If pearls are not her speed, try Birks' gorgeous Ball Station Bracelet in 18kt yellow gold. At \$160, not only will she cherish it this romantic and thoughtful gift but it's a great deal for Birks' renowned quality. www.birks.com

Stuff for your Santa

Whether he is a sports fan or is glued to APTN, any man of the house would be thrilled with a new TV. The Source by Circuit City, like all electronics shops, offers a wide variety of high-definition televisions. Unlike the competition, however, they offer web-exclusive deals, perfect for Northern online shoppers.

For example, the Maxent 42" HDTV monitor with HDMI provides the ultimate large-screen High Definition viewing experience and is ideal for any home theatre. Though the product retails for about \$1,500, this will be the last TV set you will need to purchase for years to come. The Source also offers free shipping! For more information: www.thesourcecc.com/

If your Santa could use some help to organize his life, help him communicate with the outside world with a brand new laptop. Future Shop has a large selection of laptops and is now featuring an HP Pavilion AMD Athlon 64 1.8GHz Laptop for only \$900. This product is guaranteed to entertain more for less: it is perfect for watching videos, gaming, managing your digital photos, and burning DVDs. Compact and light, this hot ticket item will please any gadget-obsessed guy. More info at www.futureshop.ca

If your man is the rugged outdoorsy type who spends a lot of time in the bush, get him ready for winter hunting with the Rocky Realtree Hardwoods Green/Grey Reversible Parka. This reversible 6-in-1 parka features Realtree Hardwoods Green and Grey camo patterns, an insulated shell and vest, high tech fabrics that kills 99 per cent of the bacteria that causes human odours and is guaranteed to be waterproof. Retailing for just \$300 at Canadian Tire, this thoughtful gift is sure to bring a smile to the face of the hunter in the house come Christmas morning. www.canadiantire.ca

Indulge the scent-savvy Santa with Boss Cologne Spray by Hugo Boss for Men. Boss Cologne spray is described as a "cool, confident and contemporary" with fresh and sensuous tones. The Bay retails the cologne for \$66, and your active man is sure to love this gift. Just don't let him out of the house alone after he slaps some on.





Ville de Chibougamau ᓇᐸጀ ᐃᐸጀ

Donald Bubar,
mayor / maire
Carole Dumoulin,
conseillère

The members of the Town Council and the population of Chibougamau join with me in extending our very best wishes to all citizens of the Cree Nation for this Holiday season and a New Year filled with happiness and prosperity.

Les membres du conseil de la Ville de Chibougamau et la population se joignent à moi pour souhaiter, à tous les citoyens de la Nation Crie, un très joyeux Noël et une nouvelle année remplie de bonheur et de prospérité.

**Réjean Girard,
conseiller**

Mario Fortin, conseiller

**Lianne Piquette,
conseillère**



Section pour enfant:



Polaris Pro-X 120 (New)



Arctic Cat Z-120 (New)



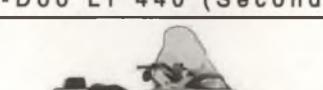
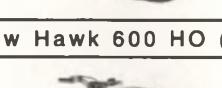
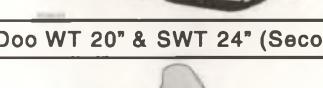
Snow Hawks Junior (New)

MOTO SPORT LA SARRE INC.

427, 2^e Rue est
La Sarre, QC

Toll Free 1-866-333-7227

J9Z 2J2

Arctic Cat (New)	Ski-Doo Tundra (Second Hand)
	
Polaris (New)	Ski-Doo LT 440 (Second Hand)
	
Snow Hawk 600 HO (New)	Ski-Doo WT 20" & SWT 24" (Second Hand)
	

Party Planning

Whether it's a big bash or an intimate gathering with friends and family, the best way to organize social holiday events is to be a careful planner. If you are hosting the family for Christmas, charged with making a success out of office or children's parties, look after the details now. With all of the other things that eat up time during the month of December, from shopping to decorating, there is no time to waste.

During the holiday season, people crave comfort and nostalgia, which is why a tree trimming party is a great way to bring everyone young and old together. Tree decorating can get both old and new friends to bond over a common activity. The focus is also shifted away from the over-consumption of food and alcohol, which is ideal for those of us who have health concerns at this time of the year.

The kids will love it, especially if they can make their own ornaments to hang on the tree. Old-school popcorn garlands require nothing more than popped corn, needle and thread.

Paper garlands are also lots of fun for little hands. All you need are one-inch by eight-inch strips of construction paper and one glue stick per child. Simply form a circle and with the first strip and glue it, link the next strip of paper and continue along the paper chain link until the garland reaches a desired length.

There are many other kinds of party theme ideas work wonders at this time of year. For the office, a Santa-themed party where everyone wears Santa hats is one idea – who does not like a Santa hat? Purchase a large quantity of Santa hats from the dollar store or get people to make or bring their own and have your

guests wear red in honour of St. Nick. Not only will everyone be entertained by the visual effect of the party, punches and cocktails made with bright red cranberry juice will also fit in with this theme.

For more party ideas: www.party411.com/christmas.html

If you are hosting any variety of holiday events, here are a few more suggestions to keep everyone safe and happy:

- Have lots of non-alcoholic beverages on hand for those who are driving and non-imbibing guests
- Provide healthier snacks and cold meat platters so that guests don't drink on empty stomachs and diet-conscious guests don't feel left out
- Provide plenty of activities for the kids: a busy kid is a happy kid. If it's a daytime event, snowman making or creating snow sculptures are great ways to burn off youthful energy. For evening affairs, indoor games like board games and holiday themed crafts are great ways to keep them included and out of harm's way.
- Always try to keep extra food and beverages on hand. You may only be planning for five to ten guests, but the holidays can draw all sorts of folks out of the woodwork and sometimes surprise guests can show up out of the blue. People can get lonely and Christmas is the time to include those who might otherwise be left out.
- If alcohol is being served, ensure there is a designated driver to get your guests home. A responsible host is not one who lets their guests drive drunk!



Happy Holidays!

At this special time of year,
we would like to extend our best wishes
for a joyful holiday season, filled with
warmth and light.

Î· Î· Î·



Société d'énergie
de la Baie James



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

It's a small world after all

by Xavier Kataquapit

Television is an old friend. I was born in Attawapiskat on the James Bay coast at the same time as the first television signals were being beamed into our small isolated community during the 1970s. So TV has been part of my life as long I can remember. We had access to only three, or sometimes four, channels, but as far as we were concerned that was normal. However, we soon discovered that advertisements on our few TV channels offered subscriptions to install cable TV services that gave subscribers access to over 100 channels and movie stations. Wow, what a shock.

During the 80s, we all yearned for the freedom to surf through dozens of channels that played the latest blockbuster films. Some neighbours even went through the expensive and technically difficult task of setting up a huge satellite television receiver in their backyards. Those few families who had this set up came back with stories of flipping through numerous channels. However, they also talked about fuzzy reception, lock outs and technical glitches. That huge dish also stuck out like a magnet and attracted neighbourhood kids that used it as though it was something you would find in a playground. It came in handy as a target for mud balls, rocks and snowballs.

In my teens, I moved to North Bay, where my eyes were really opened to the wonderful world of multi-channel TV. On my return home to Attawapiskat it was a bit of a disappointment to be faced with that old set and just a few channels. The big breakthrough came in the early 1990s, as our small town became a little more closely connected to the outside world when we got our own local cable service that offered as many as channels we could afford.

I soon discovered that being able to flip through a hundred channels was not all that I had imagined. At times I found myself surfing through endless channels and finding nothing I wanted to watch. The programs I did want to see were half way done or they would not appear for an hour or two later. As a solution, I continued searching only to get lost in the activity of repeatedly pressing the up and down channel buttons. I was manic.

It seems that the entertainment we enjoy on a monitor is constantly evolving as technology makes everything more accessible, cheaper and faster. Several years ago, I began accessing the internet which gave me the ability to read news stories, articles and websites about anything and everything. In a matter of a few years, I soon discovered that I had to switch from dial up internet service to high speed because most of the content I was looking at required a faster connection. At the same time, I was reading less and instead accessing more video content.

I am happy to report that my life at the front of a monitor has taken a new twist once more. I had started watching documentaries and films on my little monitor in the office. It was interesting but uncomfortable and difficult to view. After going through many evenings of watching full length programs with a headset, sitting in an uncomfortable wooden chair at my desk and in front of a monitor that was just a few inches from my face, I realized something. Why not just plug my living room television onto the internet? I set up a laptop with some simple connections to the television, an Ethernet cable to my high speed internet and then bought a wireless keyboard to control my setup from the comfort of my sofa.

There may be better setups out there that use the latest connectors, cables and devices. The picture on my older 32-inch CRT television is not as good as those new LCD and Plasma sets and my connection is not state of the art. Still, I can watch whatever I want and when want to. I am on the leading edge of a very fast trend that everyone will be enjoying in the next few years. Television is changing into internet multimedia and that suits me just fine. There are already many websites that feature online documentary films, movies and television shows without the advertising breaks. I can go searching for whatever content I want, play it and if I don't like it then I can stop it. If I miss something in the show, I can just rewind with the click of a button.

Now, when I go to sit down at the television, I just connect to the internet, find old reruns of long lost programs, watch interviews with rare celebrities and personalities or take in informative independent documentaries that would never be played on a commercial network. I can even watch video and TV productions from all over the world. That old Disneyland theme song keeps coming to mind when I connect to the world on my new multimedia set up, "It's a small world after all..."

*Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year
to one and all from everyone at Beesum Communications and the Nation*



HONDA de Val-d'Or

1720, 3rd Avenue, Val-d'Or

Tel: 819-825-7838

Fax: 819-825-8855

Toll free: 1-877-525-7838

www.hondadevaldor.ca

Roadside Assistance 1-800-465-7587

Season's Greetings to all our Cree clients!

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for another record year here at Honda de Val d'Or. Your patronage is greatly appreciated and you are an integral part of our success and our growth!

To celebrate this record year we are offering:

- To every client who takes possession of a new car or truck in our inventory in December, you get a chance to win your purchase, up to a maximum of \$20,000.00**
- Everyone who visits us in December will get the chance to win a trip to Cuba (no purchase necessary)**
- 0.9% financing on all our 2007 and 2008 models in inventory or rebates up to \$9,000.00**
- The Ridgeline LX4WD 2008, all equipped, 10.1L/100km, for \$438.00/month with \$0 cash-down (OAC, 48-months lease, 96,000km included)**
- Gift-certificates up to \$1,000.00 (depending on models), applicable on the purchase of a generator, accessories or the extended-warranty Honda Plus.**

Only 3 Odyssey 2007 (financing available) at 0.9% for up to 72 months, including the Honda Plus 6-year/160,000km at no extra cost.



Looking for a great gift for a loved one that's both environmentally-friendly and gentle on the ears?

Why not get a Honda generator?

If you buy in December, we will deliver it to your home for free!



Patrick Carbonneau
General Sales
Manager

Martin Roy
Senior Service
Advisor



Recent university or college graduates may be eligible for an allowance of up to \$750.00 on certain models. See participating Honda Dealers for complete details.

TOP SAFETY PICK 2007
**INSURANCE INSTITUTE
FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY**

**COMPLIMENTARY
FILL-UP**

All new Honda vehicles are delivered with a full tank.





B.C. Sports Chasse et Pêche Amos



1-866-731-3279 Approval by phone

bcsports@cableamos.com

131, 1st Ave. Ouest in Amos

for serious Hunters and Fishers

**We're revolutionizing the hunting
and fishing market for our
northern clients!**

**New! In-house financing right
here on the premises.**

3 English sales reps just for you!

Full-time in-store gunsmith.

No taxes for our northern clients.

**The biggest hunting & fishing store
and the biggest inventory of firearms
of the north.**

**Super
Special**

**Baikal .12 ga 3.5 in. Semi-automatic
woodstock \$599.99 camo \$699.99**



Alex, Sales Rep
3 Time Arch & Bow World Record Holder



Gaétan, Owner
Hoyt Challenge Champion

For December only, in time for Christmas shopping!
15% off on everything in our inventory.

* On \$300.00 and more.

* With credit approval.



Remington

Stoeger
Serving America's Sportsmen Since 1924



BERETTA





**NISKAMOON CORPORATION
WISHES HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO
THE PEOPLE OF EYOU ISTCHEE!**

The Board of Directors and staff at Niskamoon Corporation would like to wish the people of Eeyou Istchee a Merry Christmas. May this holiday season bring happiness and prosperity to your homes!

**Please remember to be safe while you travel!
Happy Holidays!**

